

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On Page 1, paragraph 1, please substitute the following paragraph:

The present invention relates generally to a positive temperature coefficient thermistor having a safety structure for preventing continuous breakage, which is a non-contact starting relay mounted on the compressor of a refrigerator or an air conditioner to start the compressor. More specifically, the present invention relates to a positive temperature coefficient thermistor having a safety structure for preventing continuous breakage, in which tap terminals connected to the outside and spring terminals mechanically connected to the tap terminals are mechanically and electrically connected to a positive temperature coefficient element, and an electrically weak portion of a size in the range of 0.1 mm ~ 0.8 mm is formed in a portion of each of the spring terminals connecting the tap terminals to the positive temperature coefficient element, so that a stable current flows in the weak portion ~~if a normal operating current flows in the PTC thermistor~~ the positive temperature coefficient element is not broken and normally operates, whereas the weak portion is cut off while acting as a fuse because a current in excess of an allowable current is generated in the weak portion due to short-circuit surge current generated at the time of the breakage of the element if the positive temperature coefficient element is broken by the thermal and electrical stress of the positive temperature coefficient element or an overcurrent caused by external abnormal power flows in the PTC thermistor, resulting in the fact that the continuous breakage of the positive temperature coefficient element is no longer generated by preventing the flow of

current because a short-circuit overcurrent generated at the time of the breakage of the positive temperature coefficient element or an overcurrent flowing into the PTC thermistor from the outside is interrupted in an electric circuit due to the cutting off of the weak portion, thus preventing the generation of contaminants or a fire resulting from the continuous breakage of the positive temperature coefficient element, and, therefore, both improving the total efficiency of a product and maximizing the reliability of the product.

On Page 4, paragraph 1, please substitute the following paragraph:

Accordingly, the present invention has been made keeping in mind the above problems occurring in the prior art, and an object of the present invention is to provide a PTC thermistor having a safety structure for preventing continuous breakage, in which tap terminals connected to the outside and spring terminals mechanically connected to the tap terminals are mechanically and electrically connected to a PTC element, and an electrically weak portion of a size in the range of 0.1 mm ~ 0.8 mm is formed in a portion of each of the spring terminals connecting the tap terminals to the PTC element, so that ~~a stable current flows in the weak portion if a normal operating current flows in the PTC thermistor~~ the PTC element normally operates if the PCT element is not broken, whereas the weak portion functions as a fuse and is cut off by short-circuit surge current generated at the time of the breakage of the PCT element~~while acting as a fuse because a current in excess of an allowable current is generated in the weak portion~~if the PTC element is broken by the thermal and electrical stress of the PTC element or an overcurrent caused by an external abnormal power source flows in the PTC thermistor.

On Page 11, paragraph 2, please substitute the following paragraph:

In the PTC thermistor 1, if ~~a normal operating current flows in the PTC thermistor 1~~ the PTC element is not broken, ~~a stable current flows in the weak portion~~ the PTC element generates heat according to the characteristic thereof, thus performing a normal function. In contrast, if the PTC element 3 is broken by the thermal and electrical stress of the PTC element 3, or an overcurrent caused by an external abnormal power source flows in the PTC thermistor 1, continuous breakage, such as second and third breakage, caused by the breakage of the PTC element 3 is generated (see FIGS. 6A and 6B), so that contaminants or a fire are produced by the continuous breakage of the PTC element 3.

On Page 11, paragraph 3, please substitute the following paragraph:

In the PTC thermistor 1 according to the present invention that is proposed to solve those problems, the weak portion is formed in the portion of each of the spring terminals 6 to function as a fuse that is cut off at the time when an abnormal phenomenon, such as the inflow of ~~an overcurrent~~ short-circuit surge current generated at the time of the breakage of the PTC element, occurs in the state that the spring terminals 6 mechanically connected to the tap terminals 5 connected to the outside are mechanically and electrically connected to the PTC element 3.

On Page 13, paragraph 2, please substitute the following paragraph:

The weak portion is defined by an angled or a rounded notch depending upon a process of forming the spring terminals 6 and the tap terminals 5. Additionally, the weak portion is formed so that one edge is made weak by cutting out the other edge or a center portion is made weak by cutting out both edges. The weak portion may not be formed in a portion where the spring terminals 6 and the tap terminals 5 are mechanically and electrically connected to each other, but may be formed in a portion of each of the spring terminals 6 or the tap terminals 5 where ~~a forming process is easily performed~~ pressure is not applied at the time of coming into contact with the PTC element.

On Page 15, last paragraph, please substitute the following paragraph:

Additionally, the operating time of the PTC element 3 was measured using a power supply and an oscilloscope at the time when an overcurrent was flowing in the PTC thermistor 1 due to an initial resistance value of the PTC element 3 under a normal condition s (condition in which the PCT is not broken). The results of the measurements are shown in the following Table 2.